

Analysis of First-Generation Medical Students and their Academic Performance



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Introduction

There is a rich body of literature written on the successes and struggles of first-generation to college students and their outcomes. However, there is little to no research on students who are first in their family to graduate from college, attend medical school, and match into residency. Therefore, a gap in this body of literature exists and this poster seeks to address this deficiency by exploring our experience at the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (GCSOM).

Methodology

A cohort of 626 students who graduated between May 2013 and May 2020 was eligible. Out of the 626 eligible students, 616 students met the participant criteria, with a total of 127 first-generation and 489 continuing-generation students.

A 3-tiered system based on mean Step 1 scores and specialties from AAMC's 2019 Report on Residents¹ and SF Match's 2019 Ophthalmology Residency² (Figure 1) was created to determine academic performance.

Figure 1.

Mean Step 1 scores of various specialties separated into 3 tiers

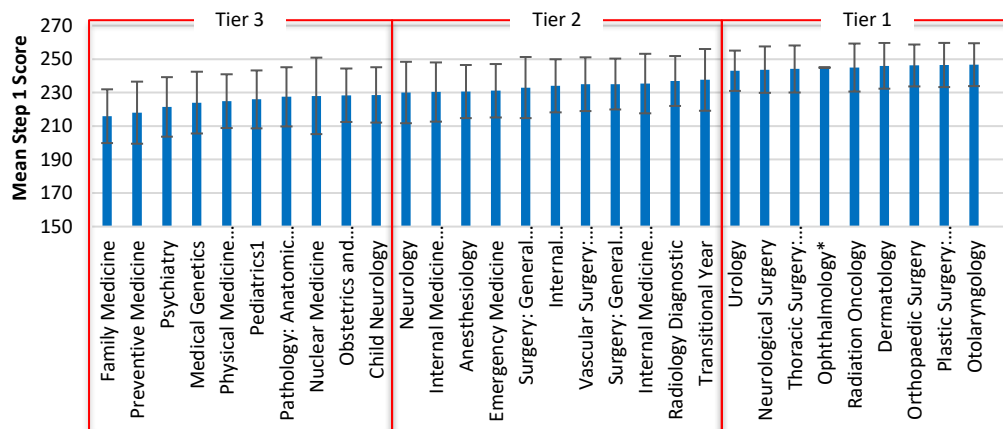


Table 1.

First-Generation vs Continuing-Generation Student Performance

	Student Status				X ² (df)	p
	FG		CG			
	N	(%)	N	(%)		
Total	127	20.6	489	79.4	4.42 (2)	0.110
Tier 1	14	11.0	56	11.4		
Tier 2	91	71.7	306	62.6		
Tier 3	22	17.3	127	26.0		

First-Generation Celebration of Achievement Award Ceremony at GCSOM. Coordinated by Dr. Vicki T. Sapp



Results

We found **no significant difference for student performance and competitiveness between first-generation and continuing-generation students**. A Chi-square analysis revealed that there is no marked difference between these two cohorts ($X^2 (2, N = 616) = 4.42, p = .110$) of students (Table 1).

Conclusion

Our study depicts a successful picture of First-Generation medical students matching into competitive specialties at rates equal to Continuing-Generation medical students at GCSOM. It is thought that the extensive support system in place for First-Generation and minority students at GCSOM may contribute to their success.

These data implicate the possible need for an inclusive environment to promote academic success and for future studies that implement intersectionality within the broad First-Generation cohort.

References

1. AAMC (2019). Report on Residents. Retrieved from <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/students-residents/report/report-residents>
2. SF Match (2019). Residency and Fellowship Match [Ophthalmology Residency]. Retrieved from <https://sfmatch.org/SpecialtyInsideAll.aspx?id=6&typ=2&name=Ophthalmology>